



*Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes  
Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment*

**WGMA/2003/3**

Fourth meeting

St. Michielsgestel, The Netherlands, 12-13 September 2003

**Working paper:**

**Preparation/implementation of pilot projects on lake monitoring and assessment**

### ***Preparation/implementation of pilot projects on lake monitoring and assessment***

The main objectives of the planned pilot projects for lakes are:

- 1) implementation and testing of UN/ECE WGMA Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes (parts A and B)
- 2) to investigate how monitoring programmes could be economically developed to fulfil the obligations of EU Water Framework Directive
- 3) to improve and harmonize the reporting practices on the state of environment using modern information technologies

The planning of both pilot projects, the one in Lake Pyhäjärvi between Finland and Russia and the other one in Lake Peipsi between Russia and Estonia, is being coordinated by Finland as lead country for monitoring and assessment of transboundary and international lakes. The planning process has been somewhat hampered by the fact that there are several other activities going on which are also dealing with monitoring and assessment. This is especially true for Lake Peipsi where four international projects are running at the moment aimed at promoting the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

For this reason Finland proposes a change of plans regarding the ***Lake Peipsi pilot***. The intention is now to establish a "twinning" arrangement between the Finnish-Russian Transboundary Water Commission and the Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission. The pilot project would thus be implemented directly by the two Commissions. This approach has already been agreed in principle. The pilot programme will be defined in the inception meeting, which is to take place in November this year.

In ***Lake Karelian Pyhäjärvi*** an Interreg project called 'Assessment of the ecological state of an oligotrophic lake – as exemplified by the transboundary Lake Pyhäjärvi on the Finnish-Russian border' has produced its first report 'The plan of water and water ecosystem protection for Karelian Pyhäjärvi'. This report concentrates on the Finnish side of the border summarizing the average load in to the lake, water quality and ecological state of the lake and also water protection directions. The report is written in Finnish and an English version is expected to be ready in December 2003. The same type of water protection plan is underway for the Russian side.

Under preparation in years 2003-2005 are several specific reports (paleolimnological studies, fish fauna, benthic invertebrate fauna, zooplankton, phytoplankton, macrophytes). A joint report of all these topics 'Assessment of the ecological state of Lake Pyhäjärvi' will be finalized during 2004-2005.

Preparing a new monitoring programme for Lake Pyhäjärvi is one aim of the project and UN/ECE guidelines will be tested during the process. The pilot project for testing UN/ECE guidelines will be started with an inception meeting in October 2003 where the final programme of the pilot project including the responsibilities of the partners will be defined.